WOMEN DIDN'T WEAR WARM CLOTH-ING AND OFTEN CAUGHT COLDS.

It Was the Fashion to Go About in Low-Necked Dresses and Short Sleeves in Winter, and Most of Them Married at

I have a dear old friend—a genuine "lady of the old school," who has a hobby. It is the

precocity of the present age.

"Pray, madam, how old were you when you were married?" I asked her one day.

She hesitated, and the blood rose a little in

her delicate old face.
"Just 16," she responded.
After awhile it all leaked out. Most of the girls of her day were married at 16 and 17, often at 15. All of her sisters were married before they were 20. Then, after little lomacy, she gave some particulars of the way they did it fifty years ago. Hygiene was not invented then; even the name was not known. The wonder is how any of the children surwived to be women, and how any of the women survived at all. Nobody but men wore flannel; my old friend told me that the young ladies couldn't, positively couldn't.

"Because they were low-necked frocks all the year round. In winter they were capes to cover their bare shoulders. Of course, they were not strictly decollette, but the most delicate part of the chest and between the shoulders was exposed. The little girls word not only low-necked, but short-sleeved, woolen dresses, with nothing over their poor little chests and arms but a thin muslin apron."

"Poor things," I said, "how they must have shook and shivered—in the good old days. Fancy one of the little girls of to-day, clothed in warm flamed from her neck to her heels, with stout woolen stockings coming quite over the knees, compelled to adopt the cos-

tume of the good old days!"
"Then, the babies! Bare armed and bare necked, too, except in the coldest weather, when they had a thin merino sack put on

them."

"Poor babies," said I. "The general idea seemed to be to expose the neck and arms as much as possible, under the most adverse circumstances. Wasn't there a good deal of rheumatism in the good old time!"

"I am afraid I must say yes," replied my

"I am afraid I must say yes," replied my old friend, doubtfully. "All middle-aged people, it seems to me, had the rheumatism then. And they don't seem to me now." continued the dear old lady, "to have made any change in their clothing according to variations in the weather. No dress waists for summer were lined. The line between summer and winter clothes was rigidly drawn. In May, ladies put away all their thick In May, ladies put away all their thick dresses, and wore nothing but the thinnest muslins and cambrics until autumn. Of course, we had cold snaps, but we managed to shiver through them in our airy garments. If I had gone and put on a thick frock, as my daughter does when the thermometer gets down to 50, I would have been thought

crazy. Besides, they were all packed away.

"The one thing which they wore without regard to its seasonableness was a bonnet. A woman in moderate circumstances fifty years ago seldom had but one bonnet, and that she wore until she wore it out, summer and winter. If the bonnet gave out in summer, most likely she bought a straw or drawn silk bonnet, which she wore the next winter withbonnet, which she wore the next winter without occasioning remark; and if it was winter
she bought a velvet bonnet, perhaps, and
wore it bravely through the dog days. Dunstable bonnets were very fashionable when I
was a girl. They were a kind of plaited
straw, but they melted away if water
touched them. A rain storm was death to
them. Dunstable bonnets and percussion
caps appeared about the same time, and a
good many people confused the names and
called them Dunstable caps and percussion
bonnets."

"How about the shoes? In these bad modern times any young woman appearing on the street in cloth gaiters would be thought a lunatic. Nothing is admissible except a regular kid or leather walking shoe, substantially

"I'm afraid," sighed the dear old soul, "that we didn't even always wear cloth gaiters. Many a day in winter I have gone down the street in low cut cloth shoes and silk stockings. Indeed, that was considered the only correct wear for a young woman with any pretensions to elegance."

"I have seen some of those old gaiters," I remarked, with gentle malice. "They barely came to the ankle; they were of the thinnest kind of cloth, and the soles were no soles at all—scarcely thicker than good wrapping paper. I would be afraid to go around the corner in such shoes."

"I am afraid we girls had a good many colds and coughs," my old friend sighed. "I should think so," I replied.

"Then as to wraps," she continued, "it was the height of every girl's ambition to have a Canton crape shawl. If a girl had one she wore it, no matter how cold it might be. I was pretty cold, I remember, one January day, with nothing around me but a silk shawl, but I didn't mind it. Then, we couldn't walk fast to keep up our circulation. It was proper for ladies to walk in a slow and leisurely

"That, together with the insufficient clothing and scanty food you allowed yourselves, st have made you rather pale and nerve-

"Well, it was not considered elegant," remarked the old lady, "for young girls to eat much. A delicate appetite was considered re-fined and interesting. As to sleeping rooms, it is true that we had open fireplaces, which afforded some ventilation, but as none of the windows let down from the top of course we couldn't have a current of fresh air through couldn't have a current of fresh air through our bedrooms. We slept on feather beds. They lasted a long time. Sometimes they were in use fifty years. When I waked up in the morning I usually felt dull and heavy. In the summer we had mattresses put on top of the feather beds. There were very few hair mattresses in those days. Most of them were of corn shucks, with an occasional corncob thrown in."—New York Mail and Express.

A Curious Chinese Myth. The curious belief exists in China that white hairs are spread over the ground by earth-quakes, some affirming that these hairs are those of the huge subterraneous animal that shakes the world. Dr. Macgowan has suggested that fine crystals have been deposited from gaseous emissions during shocks, but in-clines to the opinion that the hairs of the Chinese traditions had a vegetable origin. This leads Professor W. T. Dyer to point out that an English writer who had the curiosity to investigate the alleged phenomenon after an earthquake at Shanghai in 1852, found that the hairs were those of horses, dogs and well-known plants, and, of course, were no more numerous than at other times.—Arkan-saw Traveler.

Emperor William's Lobster. Whenever the Emperor William under-takes to eat his dearly loved lobster his doctor invariably shudders and protests, but the aged emperor merely smiles and continu his meal. He eats a good deal and is particularly fond of shell fish.—Chicago Tribune. General Adbertisements.

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